



NEWS RELEASE

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WEST HOLT MEMORIAL HOSPITAL BREAKS GROUND FOR EXPANSION **--USDA Rural Development Assists with \$2,987,000**

Atkinson, Neb., July 14, 2005—Ground was broken today in Atkinson for the West Holt Memorial Hospital (WHMH) addition funded through a near \$3 million United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development loan inclusive of needed hospital renovations. Improvements to the hospital will meet established state and federal regulatory guidelines, are anticipated to save 50 jobs, and will bring improved patient services to nearly 8,200 households in Holt, Rock, Boyd, and Keya Paha counties.

[“These are exciting times for WHMH. The funding provided through USDA Rural Development and the local Capital Campaign will allow us to add needed patient space and updating of services so that we may better serve our community,”](#) stated Mel Snow administrator for WHMH.

USDA funds will allow for renovations and a 4,600 square foot addition to the admission and business office areas to comply with Federal Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act guidelines. Closed in business offices, privacy booths and infrastructure to add computerized medical records will be featured. Additionally, there will be upgrades to other areas of the existing facility made to meet the Americans with Disabilities Act guidelines. A connecting link will be built between the new business office and the existing clinic. Paving, curbing and seeding are also included in the project. Renovations to the cafeteria area to comply with Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services regulations are to take place along with enlargement of the emergency room area and upgrading the associated entrance to include an enclosed squad garage and vestibule.

“Quality medical care in rural communities is a continued concern,” stated Mary Gambill rural development manager for USDA Rural Development. “The planned WHMH improvements will ensure that continued quality medical services are delivered to patients and will help to reinforce the sustainability of the health care environment.”

USDA Rural Development’s Community Facility Direct Loan program assisted in the total costs of the capital improvement project estimated at \$1,898,300 with total refinancing at \$1,088,700. Loan terms are 30 years at 4.50 percent rate of interest. TierOne Bank of Lincoln, Neb. provided the interim financing.

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West Holt Memorial Hospital owns and operates the 18 bed facility complete with an adjoining pharmacy and clinic. The 15,000 square foot clinic was built in 1997. WHMH is a Critical Access facility and provides all the basic hospital services including surgery. Chelation and Pain Management services are both available and draw patients from across the state and three adjoining states.

For additional information contact Mary Gambill at (402) 387-2242, (402) 437-5093 (TDY); 731 E. 4th Ainsworth, Neb. 69210. Visit <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/ne/>.

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